

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a DIRECTV customer, I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

This is a really big issue for my wife and I, as the cost of anything better than basic regular cable is prohibitive, and the service from our cable provider is HORRIBLE! It seems like the cable company is a monopoly and they can mistreat their customers (me) since I don't have any viable alternatives. Having access to digital satellite that would also provide local programming would finally allow us to get digital television (with local channels) at an acceptable price point.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,
Erich Hannan

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Erich Hannan
111 E Main
Bozeman, MT 59715